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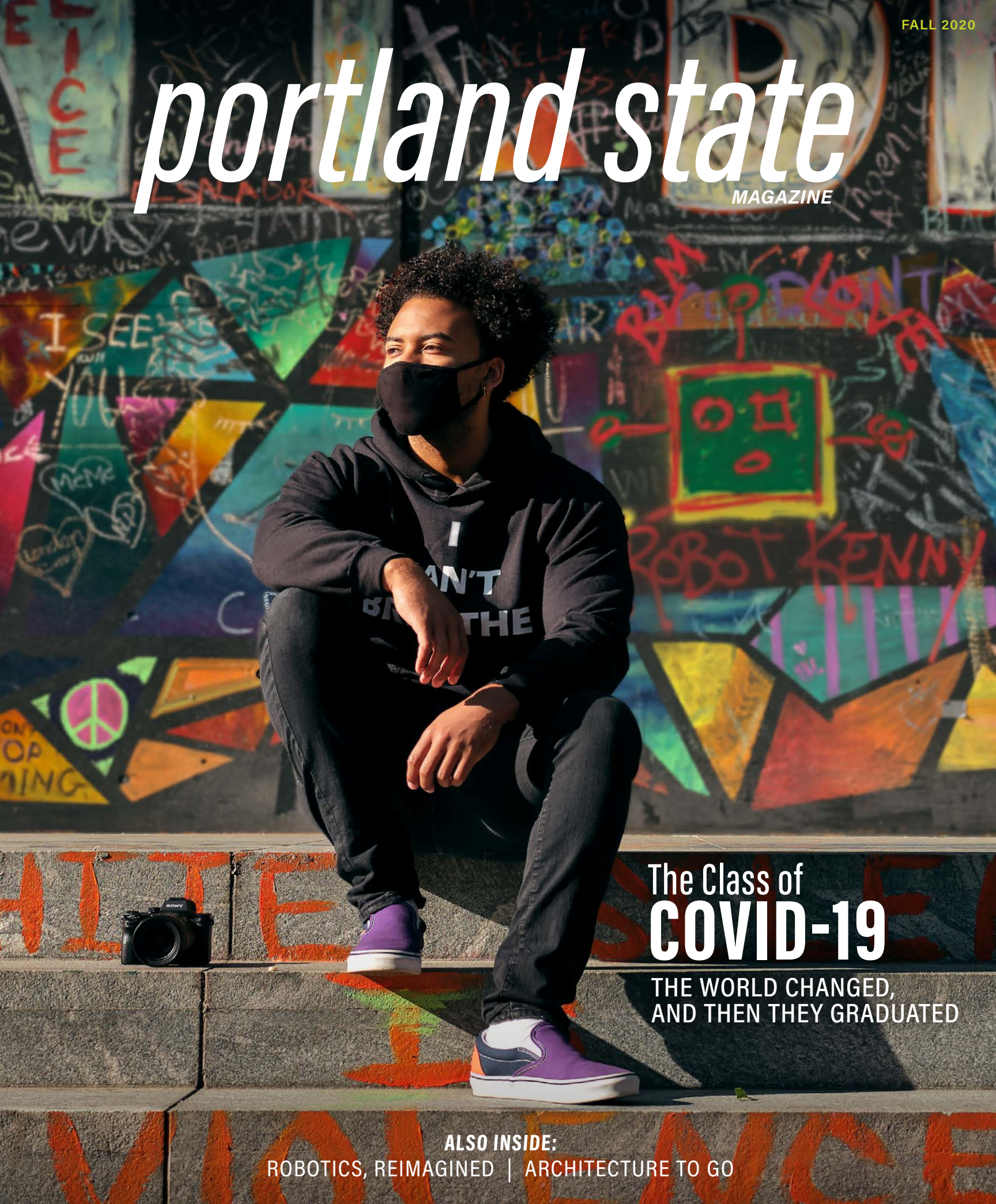
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portland state

MAGAZINE



The Class of **COVID-19**

THE WORLD CHANGED,
AND THEN THEY GRADUATED

ALSO INSIDE:
ROBOTICS, REIMAGINED | ARCHITECTURE TO GO

PSU SUPPORTERS HAVE HEART 
& always do their part

 SINCE 2005 THE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
HAS FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS *at* PSU

THEY'VE HELPED
MORE THAN 360

STUDENTS SUCCEED *by offering not just financial support, but*

MOTIVATION & COMMUNITY

 THANK YOU 

RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

FOR 15 YEARS OF IMPACT!

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Fall 2020// The magazine for alumni and friends of Portland State University

FEATURES



The Class of COVID-19

Defined by the pandemic that surprised the world, this spring's resilient graduates offer a window into extraordinary times.



From Portland State to Public Office

Their backgrounds and political beliefs may differ, but alumni on the November ballot all want a chance to "Let Knowledge Serve."



Hands-on History

Filled with handwritten notes and hidden marks, a 500-year-old witch-hunters' manual gives students an unusual glimpse into the past.

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Cameron Whitten has raised more than \$1.9 million in emergency assistance for Black Portlanders

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ON THE COVER// Class of 2020 graduate Joseph Blake Jr. photographed months of Portland's Black Lives Matter protests. See his story on page 18. Portrait by NASHCO.

MADE BY VIKINGS FOR VIKINGS

Kayin Talton Davis '05
Owner of Soapbox Theory

PSU ALUMNI BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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and services from PSU
alumni-owned businesses.

Learn more
pdx.edu/alumni

YOUR VOICE IS CRITICAL TO PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

PSU Advocates is the PSU Alumni Association's legislative advocacy program, dedicated to mobilizing alumni and friends on behalf of maximizing state support for PSU and higher education.

4 WAYS TO BE A PSU ADVOCATE



1 SIGN UP

Become an advocate by texting **Portlandstate** to **52886** or visit pdx.edu/alumni/advocates



2 CONNECT

Introduce yourself to your lawmakers and tell them why you care about PSU. Use tools at pdx.edu/alumni/advocates



3 FOLLOW

Follow **@PSUGovRelations** on Twitter and Facebook



4 LEARN

Learn about the issues facing PSU students and the value of public higher education at pdx.edu/government-relations



from the president

RIISING UP STRONGER FOR ANOTHER 75 YEARS

FRIENDS OF PSU near and far, I'm excited for the academic year ahead—Portland State's 75th year. On February 14, PSU celebrates Founder's Day. Our 75th anniversary offers an occasion to recommit to our resilient roots and to celebrate our spirit of service.

After all, PSU has been resilient since our inception 75 years ago as an institution established to serve GIs returning from World War II. We were resilient in surviving and thriving in the aftermath of a flood that destroyed our first campus. We persevered through many other periods of turmoil and disruption in our history. And, we have been nothing if not resilient over the last six months in our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and through our efforts to forge a pathway to eliminate racism and advance social justice on our campus.

My own understanding of resilience deepened when I collaborated with faculty and staff to build a new graduate degree program in Emergency Management and Community Resilience. Through that process, I learned that the term resilience carries with it two notions. Ideally, work in resilience begins when we plan an effective response to a disaster and, in the aftermath, rebuild to a stronger future. However, with COVID-19, PSU did not have that chance. Instead, we faced the pandemic head-on, adapting quickly to sustain student learning and to bring activities like research operations back to life.

PSU community members continue to demonstrate resilience in countless ways this year. They created remote learning from scratch. They found ways to give students personal attention and support, even if it could not be in

person. They created a sense of community in a virtual environment. They called on leaders to reimagine campus public safety at PSU. And they urged us to address structural racial inequities here on campus.

I want to specifically name the burden that has been carried by our Black faculty, staff and students as they have continued to meet their academic and professional commitments despite the trauma and grief re-provoked by the latest incidents of racism and anti-Black violence. I am humbled by their resilience and fortitude.

Our next challenge is before us: How do we learn from the pandemic experience—pinpointing successful innovations as well as areas where remote operations are less effective—to plan for a stronger future? We must confront and eliminate racism. We must be aware of the harm caused to Indigenous Peoples and learn how their cultures and values provide knowledge to reform resilience. We must learn how remote learning experiences have impacted and may inform our long-term commitment to student success.

It is a tall order for our 75th year, but we have amazing talent, energy and dedication both on campus and among our alumni. And those key assets leave us well-positioned not just for this year, but for the next 75 years.

Sincerely,

Stephen Percy
President, Portland State University

**portland
state**
MAGAZINE

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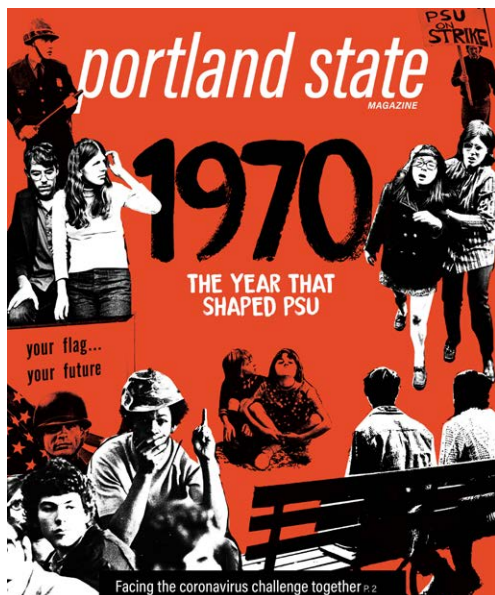


inbox

ONE YEAR, MANY POINTS OF VIEW

Thank you for featuring the tragic events in May of 1970 at PSU. My older brother David, foster brother and dad were there. That Portland police would beat local residents who were demonstrating non-violently was devastating. When the dust settled, as your story reported, 27 people were hospitalized and the city changed forever. David, who was majoring in politics and engineering, took a glancing blow to his head. He was a leader among the political activists demonstrating against the war in Vietnam. David did not earn his degree because tragically he died in a bike accident in 1972. I was the first of my siblings to graduate from PSU—10 years after that day in May—with a degree in political science. At PSU, I spent time in Salem as a legislature intern, and at City Hall and the County Courthouse in work-study jobs. I earned a certificate in Urban Studies and took classes in Women's and Black studies. I later ran for and served on the Board of County Commissioners and as County Chair for 11 years. PSU shaped my life and career, and that day in 1970 was a pivotal juncture along the way. Thank you again for showcasing this important chapter in Portland's history and for reminding me of the impact it had not just on me, but on the entire community.

—Diane Linn '80



CITY OF PORTLAND ARCHIVES

The article, “1970: The Year That Shaped PSU,” brought back childhood memories. My father, Bill Williams, was Associate Dean of Student Affairs from 1965 to 1985. One of his roles was as liaison between students and the administration. During the 1970 protests, he was involved in negotiations with the protesters to remove the barricades. He thought he had an agreement with the Mayor's Office that police would not be dispatched to PSU. When the TAC squad arrived, he got caught up in the conflict. [See photo above—Williams appears in the lower-right corner.] When he came home from work that evening, my usually laid-back dad was livid, even cursing Mayor Schrunk. He later explained that he was genuinely concerned for the safety of the students and angry that so many were injured. My dad was a great believer in the value of a good education, in part because his own education had lifted him out of poverty. He wanted others to have the same opportunities. In honor of his memory, our family funded the William D. Williams Endowed Scholarship at PSU. We are so pleased to know that the first scholarship will be awarded in spring of 2021 and that my father's legacy will continue to support the students at PSU.

—Carolyn Williams

Doug Weiskopf [one of the strike leaders] lived in the apartment above mine on Southwest Harrison that year. He was SDS [“Students for a Democratic Society”], I was one of those “Baby Killing” Vietnam Vets regularly spat upon and singled out as some kind of Neanderthal relic. PTSD was a phrase that hadn't been invented yet and “Thanks for your service” is still just a meaningless virtue signal in a politically-correct world. After a few decades of looking back,

I think the protesters from the Vietnam era should have gotten a medal—probably saved thousands of us American boys—but I was there on that day in May and witnessed the public butt-whipping administered by the Portland police. Just my opinion, but the students deserved it. Doug and I were always friendly with each other and shared our doobies when we had them instead of deep and meaningful speculation on what it all meant.

—Jim Knoll '70

“The shaping of PSU was and should still be a messy business.”

While it is important to remember the events of May 11, 1970 and the student-motivated changes thereafter, there is another story usually untold. In 1970, I was a 25-year-old Vietnam veteran trying to finish college on the GI Bill. After protesters physically attacked Navy recruiters, I and other veterans showed up when Marine recruiters came to Smith Hall. We stopped protesters from another attack. Most students were seriously concerned about the war, Kent State and the Cambodian incursion, but there were off-campus groups who came in just to cause violence. I was also in President Wolfe's office on May 11 as part of the group who thought we had brokered a truce with the city. Instead, Mayor Schrunk put the phone on hold and told the TAC squad to attack. Most anti-war motives were genuine, however, there were mistakes on all sides and the violence should never have happened.

—Steve Lawrence '72

Ah, yes. The 70s. Seemingly everywhere were bumper stickers urging the insufficiently rebellious population to **QUESTION AUTHORITY**. But, I wondered, shouldn't we also question those who question authority? And shouldn't we question our own beliefs and opinions? The shaping of PSU was and should still be a messy business. However, I get the impression that PSU is dominated by one mindset. Examples: Why didn't you present the point of view of the police? What was the experience of the students and faculty who did not support the strike? Please prove me wrong. Produce an issue that presents opposing views on important issues. Your magazine would be much more interesting and informative.

—Jeff Watkins '66, MA '70

I returned to school the summer of 1970 after 20 years of marriage, the birth of six children, and the onset of rheumatoid arthritis after the "Asian flu" pandemic. During the fall semester I joined the College Resources Information Program, or CRIP as it was called by its members in order to own the name and make it a matter of pride, just as the LGBTQ community has done with the word Queer. I was happy to see the photo of Mike Goldhammer, our courageous leader, although he was not named in your issue.

—Libby Anderson Durbin '75 MS '76

I've been following the dramatic confrontations in Portland on TV and in the newspaper [this July] from my home in Los Angeles and can't help but think about the expansive articles in the fall and spring issues about the history of radical, non-violent protests against injustice at PSU, going back to 1969-70. I'd like to believe those of us who were peaceful protesters at PSU 50 years ago have added our story to local Portland folklore and helped to inspire the protests of today.

—Doug Weiskopf '71

Editor's note: This is only a small portion of the outpouring of letters we received in response to the Spring 2020 cover story. See more at pdx.edu/magazine/inbox.



HONORING ALL HONORS' FOUNDERS

I was very pleased to see the article ["50 Years of Honors"]. However, there is one glaring omission. There is no mention of

Professor James Hart, English faculty and one of the founders of the program who served as director between Professor Bierman and myself. He acquired the first major National Endowment for the Humanities grant for curricular development and was one of the most outstanding faculty members at PSU.

—Michael Reardon, provost emeritus

VIVID MEMORIES OF ERUPTION

I was on a PSU geology field trip with three or four professors of geology when Mount St. Helens erupted. We were in the John Day Fossil Beds. We had two buses and a state pickup truck. I had just returned to the bus when students started shouting and saying that they'd heard St. Helens erupt. The very excited geology professors ran to the pickup truck. They all squeezed in and headed west in a cloud of dust, leaving us students with the bus drivers. We all understood. It was the opportunity of a lifetime for them. The drivers took us north, then along the Columbia River Gorge. The entire time the enormous eruption was visible and although it was certainly roiling and moving it looked nearly still and stable due to its huge size. Luckily, I had a window seat on the right-hand side of the bus.

—Mike Little MS '82

THE DIFFERENCE ONE INSTRUCTOR CAN MAKE

I had already flunked out of college in California, attended night school in my hometown in Oregon, and attended a community college in Washington for two quarters before entering PSC the fall of 1963. I was struggling to find a major and my friend thought geology would be a good one, so I enrolled. Miriam "Mim" McKee was the lab instructor. She was incredibly unpretentious, enthusiastic, and treated students as adults. She was 45 and "only" had a bachelor's degree at that time but was an outstanding instructor. I was hooked and declared geology as my major. She became my adviser and strong supporter throughout my undergraduate years. She was proud that two of her advisees during that era went on to earn doctorates in geology, the second and third graduates of the department to have done so. Without Miriam McKee's early influence it is doubtful I would have enjoyed the long career in geology that I have had.

—Martin Ross '69, professor emeritus, Northeastern University

Editor's note: The John and Miriam McKee Endowment provides financial support for senior geology students. Learn more and make a gift at giving.psuf.org/mckeeendowment.



AMY NICHOLS

After we shared the story "Campus Trend: Little Cow Pigeon" on social media, LCP's fans—including the proprietors of the Cheerful Tortoise—began a search to find the wayward bird. At the end of June, the first sighting in seven months was posted to Little Cow Pigeon's Instagram (@littlecowpigeon). As one commenter put it: "Finally some good news in 2020!"

CORRECTION

The walking tour of 1970 student strike landmarks mentioned in the article "1970" was created by undergraduates in the 2015 course, Activism and the Archives. For more information about the project and resources available for research, contact University Archives at specialcollections@pdx.edu.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters and comments by email to psumag@pdx.edu or by mail to Portland State Magazine, University Communications, P.O. Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751. We reserve the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for clarity, accuracy and length.

park blocks



PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION

RARELY ARE STUDENTS able to put their studies directly into practice as OHSU-PSU School of Public Health students have during the coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to a partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, graduate students are working with state and county health officials to gather information about confirmed and potential COVID-19 patients.

Initially, the students checked on confirmed patients to track their recovery, but now they increasingly conduct contact tracing as well.

“COVID-19 is a new disease and there are a lot of unknowns,” said Jennifer Ku, a third-year PhD student in epidemiology who is coordinating the public health students’ pandemic case management efforts. “We’re still learning about the specifics of the disease, and it’s important to trace infected individuals to learn more and plan future steps.”

The school’s contract with the state was extended through the summer of 2021, allowing for up to 30 paid students to work part-time should the need for their services grow. For instance, they could be called in if a county lacks enough local staff to respond to a rush of new cases.

“Our students are learning in real time what public health is designed to do,” said

Dr. David Bangsberg, founding dean of the School of Public Health. “And with the guidance of the leading public health professionals in our state, they are experiencing public health in action.”

This summer, the School of Public Health received a gift of \$2 million to provide flexible resources that will help researchers and educators confront the social determinants of health through an equity lens.

Made by Boston-based philanthropists Lisa and Jim Mooney, the gift acknowledges the important role that public health practitioners, scientists and educators play in helping to shape a healthier, more equitable world. —*BETH SORENSEN*

NEWS BY THE NUMBERS

HELP FOR HELPERS

Responding to dangerous shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), PSU’s teaching and research labs donated gloves, face shields, goggles and respirator masks—nearly 11,000 pieces of PPE in all—to local hospitals.

11,000

EMERGENCY AID

PSU distributed \$8.3 million in federal aid as emergency grants to students for COVID-related expenses, including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

\$8.3M

EXPERT PERSPECTIVES

Portland State faculty helped people understand and navigate unprecedented times by lending their expertise in public health, biology, engineering and more to 1,027 print and online articles about COVID-19.

1,027

SMART TREES HOLD CLIMATE CLUES

A TEAM OF researchers known informally as the Smart Trees Collaborative believes Portland's urban trees may hold clues to the future of climate change. Scientists from Portland State, Reed College, Washington State University and the Nature Conservancy are gathering remote data from satellites, tree-top weather stations and sensors to get the first look at what urban trees experience at the canopy level.

Portland is uniquely poised to show climate change's impacts as 100- to 200-foot-tall trees grow in the urban core. "In many ways, the environment we live in in Portland is 50 years in the future for the rest of Oregon with greater levels of ozone, more drought, more heat waves and drier conditions," says Todd Rosenstiel, biology professor and dean of PSU's College of Liberal Arts and Science. "It becomes an amazing experiment in how trees will adapt."

Or how they don't. Many of the changes currently being monitored point to greatly increased risks of wildfire throughout the Pacific Northwest, as seen during September's devastating conflagrations. One species, the western redcedar, is dying off around the state. The researchers hope to uncover ways to reverse that trend. For instance, the city might be able to use the data to develop watering schedules based on trees' exact needs, the way some farmers use sensors to irrigate their crops.

Rosenstiel will soon lead the first summit on western redcedar decline, bringing researchers together from across the Pacific Northwest. Their findings could help ensure the survival of that tree species as well as others. —STEFANIE KNOWLTON



Post doctoral researcher Hannah Prather PhD '17 checks equipment and collects samples 95 feet above the ground. Watch a video of her climb at pdx.edu/magazine.

ZACH PUTNAM

VIRTUAL VITALITY

As activities like support groups, Campus Rec classes and Student Senate meetings adapted to remote formats, some saw attendance as much as double, sparking ideas for better future access.

INNOVATING EDUCATORS

More than 400 faculty members participated in summer training to learn best practices and hone skills with digital tools in preparation for a mostly-remote fall term.





DATA SCIENCE PROVIDES ELECTION PROTECTION

TRUST IN election results is vital for a healthy democracy, but with limited resources how do election officials decide which claims of fraud to investigate? Portland State researcher Stephanie Singer, an assistant professor with PSU's Hatfield School of Government Center for Public Service, received a \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to find an answer. She'll study the role of data science in election verification and build tools for officials. Her project will use a 2018 analysis conducted by North Carolina election officials into a hotly contested and

controversial congressional race, with the goal of building a tool that can indicate if an investigation into fraud or ballot discrepancies is merited. She also plans to merge data published by state election boards with census data and information about voting machines to develop predictive modeling.

"Just as an accountant knows to ask questions when actual expenditures don't match budgeted expenditures," she said, "election officials and candidates will know to ask questions when the actual voting breaks an expected pattern." —*KATY SWORDFISK*



LISTEN UP: THE POTHOLE PROBLEM PODCAST

In this time of polarized opinions, is there a way to cultivate a relationship with politics that's less frustrating? In search of the answer, political science instructor Jack Miller interviewed activists, politicians and political observers to see how they make use of their outrage instead of letting it burn them out. Listen to season one of the Pothole Project podcast at potholeproblempodcast.com.



Willie Halliburton, appointed Chief of Campus Public Safety this summer, has worked for PSU since February 2016, following a 32-year police career.

PETER SIMON

REIMAGINING CAMPUS SAFETY

A MONTH after taking the helm of PSU's Campus Public Safety Office, Chief Willie Halliburton announced that Campus Public Safety officers would begin patrolling campus without firearms.

"At Portland State, we need to heal, and this is the first step in healing," Halliburton said, referring to the 2018 fatal shooting of Jason Washington by campus police officers. "I'm so proud to be a part of this historic, groundbreaking way of doing police work."

A new Reimagine Campus Safety committee appointed by PSU President Stephen Percy will make recommendations

this fall for innovative approaches to handling different types of safety and security situations. Officers will carry nonlethal tasers.

"Over the past few weeks we have listened to many voices across our campus," President Percy wrote in an August email to the campus community.

"The calls for change that we are hearing at PSU are ringing out across our nation. We must find a new way to protect the safety of our community, one that eliminates systemic racism and promotes the dignity of all who come to our urban campus."



AN UNEXPECTED DUET

GRADUATING MUSIC major Madisen Hallberg was selected by College of the Arts faculty to sing the national anthem for Portland State University's virtual commencement this June. While she rehearsed in the Park Blocks, a professional opera singer, Emmanuel Henreid, passed by and asked if he could join in. The result was a beautiful duet that has inspired viewers around the world. The viral video was featured on ABC World News, NBC's The Today Show, NPR, and dozens of other national media outlets, and as a result, it has been viewed more than 500 million times online. PSU's Office of University Communications estimates adding broadcast views would bring the total number of views to approximately 1 billion. Watch the full-length performance at pdx.edu/unexpected-duet.

FIRST COHORT OF STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES GRADUATES

PORTLAND STATE University's 2020 virtual commencement was the first of its kind in more ways than one. Five students with Down syndrome—the first cohort of the Career and Community Studies program—graduated with a four-year certificate.

Launched in 2016 and funded by a five-year federal grant, the program's focus is providing access to a typical post-secondary education experience for students with intellectual disabilities who are traditionally left behind. Students take classes aligned

with their career interests and are encouraged to participate in campus life and activities.

The first five graduates were Rachel Esteve (pictured), Lucy Balthazaar, Wyatt Isaacs, William Larson and Sawyer Viola. This fall, the program includes 15 students.

"Other people have assumptions that we can't go to college," Balthazaar said. "And I think we need to make it clear that we are not less, we can go to college and we are beautiful people." —*KATY SWORDFISK*



HARRY ESTEVE

INSTAWORTHY PSU

Here are some of our favorite PSU Instagram photos from the past few months. Tag up with [#portlandstate](https://twitter.com/portlandstate), [#portlandstatealumni](https://twitter.com/portlandstatealumni), or [#proudviks](https://twitter.com/proudviks).

LEFT:

Faculty welcomed students to remote classes with inspiring and funny welcome videos.

CENTER:

Esmeralda Valdez '20 posted this perfect depiction...of the class 2020" (photograph by Lupe Juarez '18)

RIGHT:

The usually bustling Park Blocks offered a quiet spot for reading on the first day of a mostly remote fall term.



research

THE ROBOT, REIMAGINED

Alex Hunt's lab has pioneered a new field inspired by the adaptability of animals

ALEXANDER HUNT doesn't think robots are going to take over the world anytime soon.

"People see robot videos and think robots are way better than they actually are," says Hunt, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and head of Portland State's Agile and Adaptive Robotics Lab. "Just like anything else you see on the internet, all you see is the good stuff, not the hundred times the robots fell."

Hunt wants to build better robots—robots that are more agile, more adaptable, robots that can go into harsh environments or do jobs that are dangerous for humans, robots that can help us understand human health. For inspiration, he looks to animals that have been tuned for agility by millions of years of evolution.

Using data from biologists who study locomotion in rats, cats, dogs and humans, Hunt is reverse engineering how animals move. While robots are often designed to look or behave like humans or other animals, Hunt's approach is unique. His lab is creating robots with electronic controllers that mirror how neurons in the spinal cord control biological limb movement, allowing for more adaptable robotic movement.

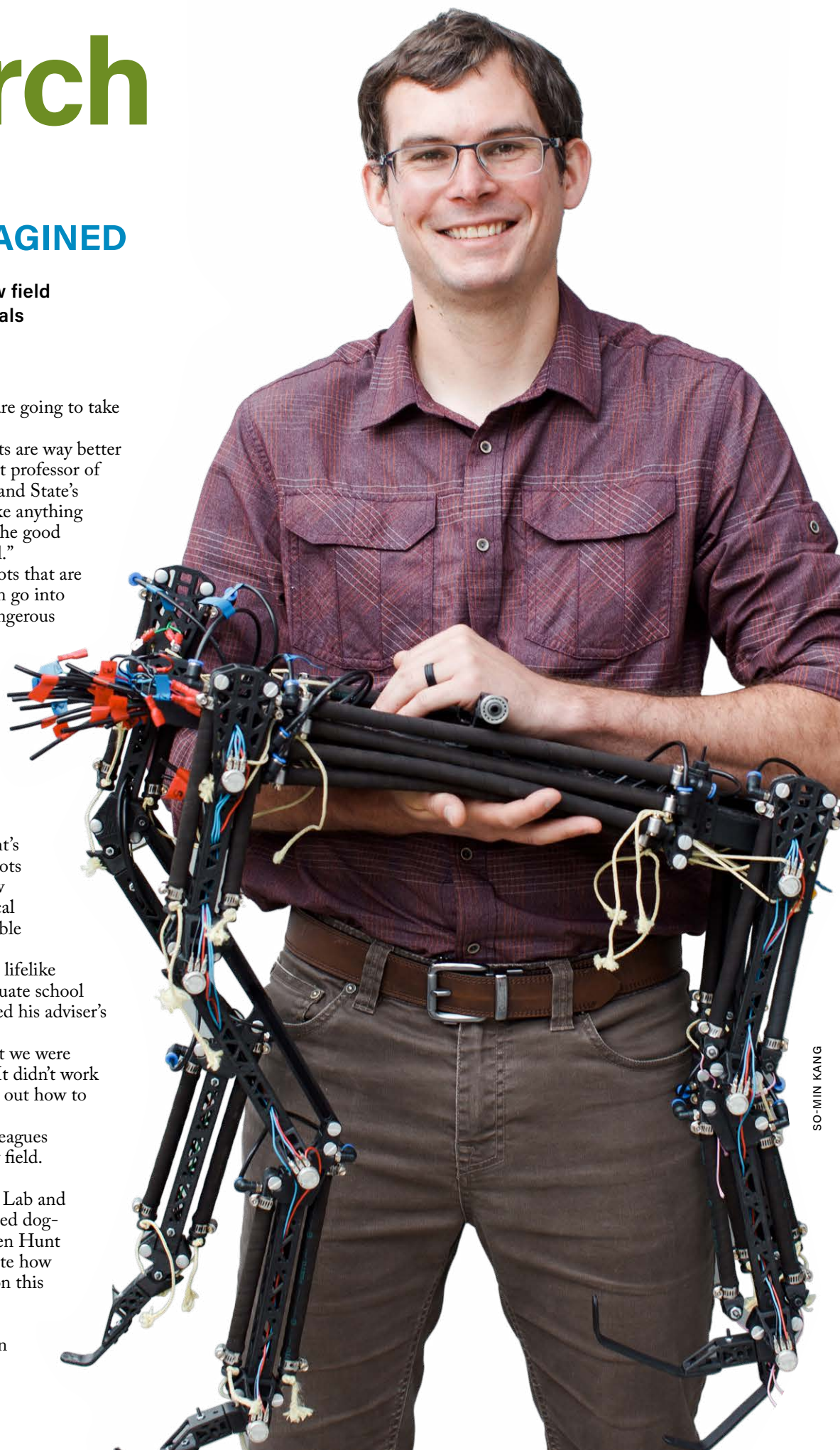
Hunt stumbled on the idea of modeling lifelike nervous system control of robotics in graduate school when he and fellow students misinterpreted his adviser's instructions to "model biological control."

"He had the foresight to not tell us what we were trying to do was impossible," says Hunt. "It didn't work for several years, but we eventually figured out how to make it work."

Now Hunt, along with a handful of colleagues throughout the world, is pioneering a new field.

ENTER THE AGILE and Adaptive Robotics Lab and you'll encounter Muscle Mutt, a four-legged dog-like robot (pictured here with Hunt). When Hunt and his colleagues discover ways to replicate how the nervous system works, they try them on this robot.

Mutt will play a critical role in the NeuroNex project, a five-year collaboration between labs at nine different institutions



SO-MIN KANG

investigating key questions in neuroscience. PSU received \$901,000 from the National Institutes of Health to test theories of mammalian neural system organization.

Soon a pair of humanoid legs will join Muscle Mutt. As with Mutt, the legs will be made of 3D-printed, carbon-fiber-infused bones and artificial muscles, which Hunt likens to “finger traps with balloons.”

Hunt’s humanoid legs will be used to study balance as part of a collaboration with Robert Peterka, associate professor of biomedical engineering at Oregon Health & Science University and a research investigator for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Peterka has collected data on how human balance changes in different conditions. By building neural controllers that mirror changes in balance in the humanoid robotic legs, the pair hope to better understand how balance is affected by diseases like Parkinson’s as well as how to improve robots’ balance. “Humans are much better at controlling balance than robots,” says Hunt.

HUNT’S LAB is also collaborating with Thomas Schumacher, associate professor of structural engineering at PSU, to build climbing robots to inspect bridges and other large infrastructure—a job that can be dangerous for humans.

“A small swarm of lightweight robot geckos could go around and inspect surfaces of bridges and retaining walls,” says Schumacher. These robots could climb vertical surfaces and even maneuver upside down. They could be equipped with cameras and search for cracks and structural weaknesses by tapping on surfaces—just as human inspectors do—in order to create automated maps of areas of concern.

Recent PSU graduate Jovoni Ashtian ’20 has worked on developing a climbing robot since he joined the lab in 2018.

His first job sounds deceptively simple: to design suction cups that stick to concrete. Concrete, which appears smooth, is actually porous. This meant Ashtian had to use a lot of trial and error when designing—and redesigning—the suction cups.

The first version could only hold for 30 seconds, but eventually Ashtian made a design that held for a full 10 minutes. “It’s just an amazing feeling when you’ve worked so hard, and it actually works,” he says.

This spring, despite having to work remotely due to COVID-19, Ashtian and a team of Capstone students created a design for a complete concrete-climbing robot prototype. Instead of a gecko, this prototype moves more like an inchworm. “The students are quite ingenious,” says Schumacher. “I think this is going to work, and I’m very excited.”

In recognition of his research and mentorship, Hunt recently received a prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award. He says he’s pleased with the progress the lab is making.

“I’m very proud that we are getting this to work, and that it is showing a lot of promise,” he says. “The students are full of great ideas and curiosity, and it’s just fun all around.” —**SUMMER ALLEN**

“Just like anything else you see on the internet, all you see is the good stuff, not the hundred times the robots fell.”

SEEING SCIENCE: NEW ELEVATOR ETIQUETTE

Text by Summer Allen | Illustration by Colin Hayes

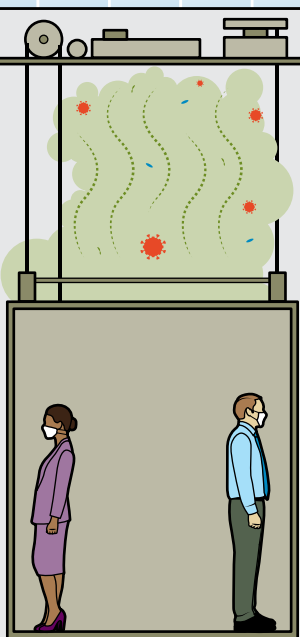
In normal times, people don’t think twice before hopping in an elevator, but sharing a small box with even one other person can feel like a risky proposition during a pandemic. Thankfully, research by Richard Corsi, dean of PSU’s Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, suggests there are ways to reduce your risk. Corsi’s research normally focuses on the science of indoor air pollution. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, he found himself becoming an expert on how SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes COVID-19—spreads in different indoor environments. In part because elevator rides are usually short, Corsi’s modeling suggests that it may be relatively safe to ride an elevator with other people, given precautions. “There will need to be new elevator etiquette,” he says.

CONCENTRATE ON NOW

Corsi used fluid dynamics to model virus concentrations in the air during a typical elevator ride. As there’s usually about one full air change per minute when an elevator travels up and down, it appears unlikely that airborne virus from former occupants sticks around long, especially if the elevator stops at multiple floors.

SILENCE IS SAFEST

“Particles that come out of our respiratory systems are like an Uber or Lyft ride for the viruses,” Corsi says. There are 100 to 1,000 tiny droplets for every big droplet. Fewer are released when you only breathe; more if you talk, sing, or cough.

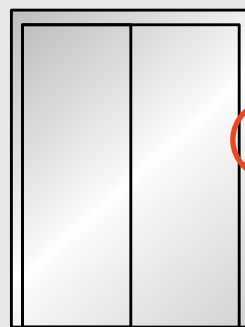


KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

The number of people on board should be limited to 2-3 for the average elevator with occupants facing the walls rather than forward.

DON’T TOUCH

Avoid touching a potentially contaminated surface by using something to push the buttons. (Corsi uses a paper towel.) Don’t lean against or touch elevator walls.



MASK UP

Masks block large droplets coming out of an infector’s mouth. They don’t work as well on the small, potentially most infectious droplets—Corsi estimates most masks stop 20-30 percent—but they do change the droplets’ fluid dynamics. “They’re still in the air, but they’re not directly aimed at you,” he says.

the arts

ARCHITECTURE TO GO

**Inventive mobile structures take
services where they're needed**

PSU'S CENTER for Public Interest Design (CPID) has taken on a particularly tricky design challenge: How can you create meaningful, useful architecture that is entirely mobile? Instead of focusing on how to bring people to services, mobile placemaking, a moveable form of design, brings services to people. The approach can also be considered a form of activism, said CPID senior research associate and architecture faculty member Todd Ferry.

"All of this work is rooted in a recognition that rising property costs and income inequality are pushing a lot of folks outside of city centers where they often don't have access to key amenities." Mobile units, he said, allow organizations to serve people where they are.

IN THEIR FIRST mobile placemaking project, a collaboration with the Portland Opera, Ferry and his students converted a standard Grumman Olson step van into an elegant moveable performance cart. Opera a la Cart features a fold-out stage and overhead shelter, a vertical screen that suggests a proscenium arch and storage space for props and instruments.

The design, which received the 2017 Regional Arts & Culture Council Innovative Partnership Award, makes it possible for the opera company to deliver pop-up performances all over the city, instantly transforming a park or street into a stage where the magic of live opera performance is shared with people from all walks of life. (The cart has had limited use during the pandemic.)

"We were excited to be able to help Portland Opera expand their outreach to include a wider range of audiences, regardless of their income or neighborhood," Ferry said. "The project's goals included breaking down the social, physical and financial barriers that tend to keep people from having access to this transformative art form."

WHEN THE CPID partnered with the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls in 2019, the designers seized the opportunity to further develop their mobile placemaking practice.

The nonprofit, which operates its summer rock camps in rented school classrooms and community centers, does not have a permanent studio space of its own. They needed a portable studio that they could bring to the camps, offering a consistent space for teaching and performing.

Enter "Rosetta," a 1989 RV, which Ferry and recent graduates Molly Esteve MArch '20 and Becca Taylor MArch '20 converted into a mobile rock classroom and performance venue.

"It had to have acoustic properties, rather than the echoey, tinny sound box of an old RV," Ferry said. "So we used thermoform panels as acoustic baffles. Then we added mahogany wood rails with brass standoffs, and bass traps that look like old radio speakers. Molly added chalkboard panels, and installed storage boxes that double as benches."



Todd Ferry and Molly Esteve

When COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, Rosetta will be decked out with a bold, colorful exterior wrap. In the meantime, the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls used it this summer for solo shows by local musicians, which they live streamed to their virtual rock camp students.

FERRY AND ESTEVE'S newest mobile placemaking project is a moveable playground called Mobile Play, funded through a grant from Bank of America for the Summer Free for All program, in partnership with the Portland Parks Foundation.

Through the Summer Free for All program, Portland Parks & Recreation serves 100,000 free meals and activities to children in lower-income neighborhoods around the city.

"Part of the work that we do is to reduce the stigma of coming to get a free meal," said Chariti Montez, who leads Summer Free for All for Portland Parks. The program offers a drop-in day camp with counselors who lead basketball clinics, storytelling or music lessons, she said—anything to make it less daunting to families to come get food assistance. (This summer, the program switched to a grab-and-go lunch model, with take-home art kits and other remote activities.)





SO-MIN KANG

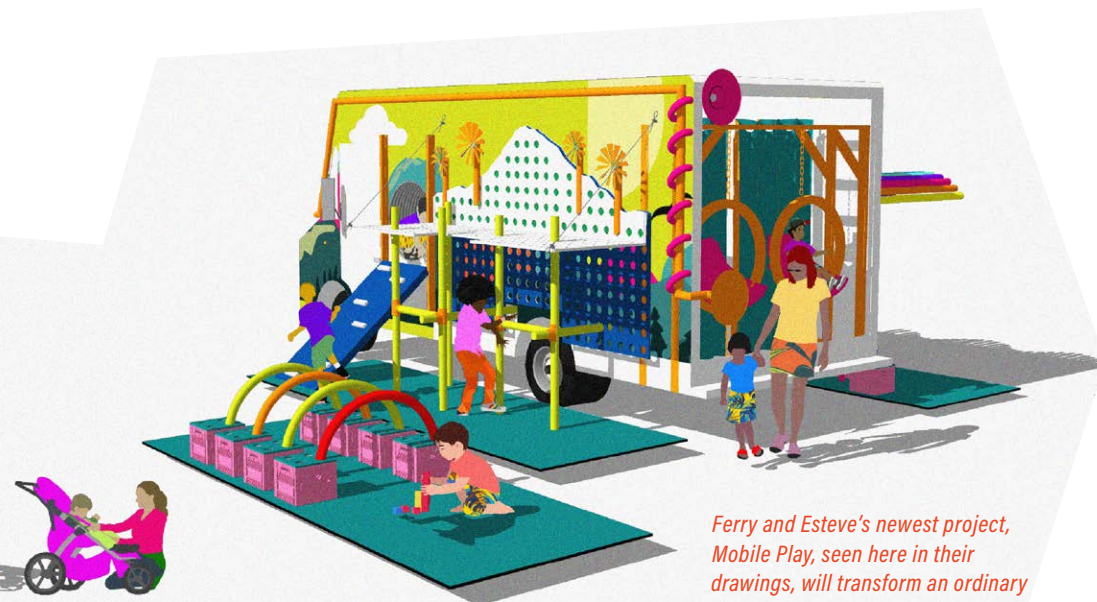
Many participating families live in East Portland, which has fewer parks than the rest of the city, and fewer locations that work for the lunch program. Montez said they set up in apartment complexes when parks or playgrounds aren't an option. Ferry and Esteve's mobile playground will turn apartment complexes and barebones parks into fun, welcoming places for kids to play and eat.

Mobile Play will be made from a standard bread truck, outfitted with colorful artwork representing Mount Hood on one side and Forest Park on the other. A climbing ramp, hammock swings, a tunnel for crawling, a large peg board, and a fold-out table for eating and crafts are all a part of the current design. It is expected to roll out in 2021.

THIS FALL, Ferry and Esteve are teaching an architecture studio together. The goal is for students to learn from international case studies and contemporary mobile efforts in order to generate new mobile placemaking proposals that aim to solve critical societal problems. New strategies for rethinking mobile services and the infrastructure that supports mobility have emerged in the wake of the pandemic, Black Lives Matter

protests and the affordable housing crisis, all of which will inform the students' design process. For instance, students will look at the re-designation of streets for recreation purposes in response to the pandemic, the adaptation of streets and public space for protests and community organizing, and the creation of mobile hygiene stations to better serve people living without shelter.

For Esteve, her Master of Architecture degree and graduate certificate in Public Interest Design have opened the door to a new career. "Since graduating this year, I am now the design director of The City Repair Project, where I will continue to work with communities on mobile placemaking, with a particular focus on place justice," she said. "Mobility is a tool at the forefront of social causes, which is where I seek to align my work." —KAREN O'DONNELL STEIN



Ferry and Esteve's newest project, Mobile Play, seen here in their drawings, will transform an ordinary truck into a fun-filled portable playground for children participating in Portland Parks' Free for All program.

DRAWING ENCOURAGEMENT

As students and faculty uneasily settled into their quarantine routines in March, creativity seemed elusive. School of Art + Design faculty Lis Charman and Lo Moran knew their graphic design students in the "Friendtorship" program were going to need more than Zoom lectures to stay productive and feel connected with each other.



MEL PURDY

Knowing that one of the best ways to reduce anxiety and nurture resilience is to help others, Charman and Moran structured their Spring Friendtorship class with assignments intended to activate students' empathy, compassion and

acceptance, both for themselves and for each other.

The professors asked the students to identify personal self-care goals they wanted to work on while quarantining at home, such as getting more sleep, connecting with loved ones, exercising and even flossing daily—activities that could help them feel more grounded. Next, each student partnered up with someone else in the class, creating posters to encourage each other as they worked to establish their new habits. Together, they came up with creative "mutual aid routines" they could use to support each other as they pursued their self-care goals.



WALKER CAHALL

Students rose to the challenge, creating heartfelt, poetic visual messages, reminding each other they (and we) are not alone, and we can get through this together. —Karen O'Donnell Stein



MIKAELA SCOTT





THE CLASS OF COVID-19

The world changed, and then they graduated

The final months, weeks and days of a student's college career are typically rife with uncertainty and excitement. After years of hard work and planning, students secure jobs, plan to see the world, or consider graduate school and beyond. It's an ending that's also a fresh start.

But for the class of 2020, all that changed in the last days of winter term when a global pandemic locked down campus and the world. Portland State University quickly shifted to remote classes. Soon it was announced that even commencement—usually attended by 25,000 people at six ceremonies in the Viking Pavilion and Moda Center—would occur online.

Although the nation's unemployment rate had been at a 50-year low only weeks before, graduates suddenly faced a job market worse than at any time since the Great Depression, as Oregon's unemployment rate jumped to nearly 15%.

We followed four graduates through their final moments as students and into the real world to explore how COVID-19 impacted their lives. And after protests swept the nation in early June, we added a fifth. From paralysis to passion, these resilient students' experiences offer a window into historic times and demonstrate this special group's most enduring lesson—the unexpected happens.

By Katy Swordfisk

The morning after the Vikings lost this quarterfinals game by two points, the Big Sky Conference basketball tournament was canceled.

ACTION INTERRUPTED: JORDAN STOTLER

SCOTT LARSON

In the middle of the pandemic, Jordan Stotler was 22 going on 15. The 6-foot-4-inch star forward's college basketball career had abruptly ended and instead of remaining in Portland alone, she opted to return to Roseburg and live with her parents.

"I've never been lazier," she says.

Bags from her apartment await unpacking and she spends her days playing video games—mostly Fortnite because she can compete with friends online. Stotler says she feels like a teenager again—unmotivated, depressed and anxious.

"It is really difficult for me just to be away from my friends and my coaches and not able to work out," she says. "2020 really is awful."

Her senior year as a psychology major concluded with a blur of online classes that she struggled through. She purposely takes more challenging classes in-person because it's easier for her to learn face-to-face. Zoom often had technical issues, or her computer wouldn't function for one reason or another. Motivation to focus was scarce. Losing her teammates so suddenly certainly didn't help.

In March, the Big Sky conference tournament was underway in Idaho. The women's basketball team—the defending champions—lost a game and was out. But the men's team was on a six-game winning streak and scheduled to play in the quarterfinals against Montana State the next day. Hours before the Vikings headed to the court, the entire tournament was canceled.

"I felt so bad for the guys, they were so good," Stotler says. "This was their year and they didn't even get to play."

The morning the tournament was canceled, Stotler woke up in her hotel room with plans to watch the men's game that afternoon. She

hadn't started packing because they had hours left before flying home. Instead, she received a text from her coach that their flights had been changed and they were leaving in 45 minutes. Twitter updates and texts from teammates talking about what happened flooded in.

"It all happened so quick, I didn't even have a chance to process it," she says. "Although it didn't ruin my season, it affected so many of my close friends and basketball people that it really got to me as well. It was a super weird and sad day."

The following months felt like a series of disappointments. Stotler didn't attend PSU's virtual graduation, instead opting for a small, tropical-themed celebration with cupcakes, a champagne toast and family in Florida.

She planned to sign with a European basketball team and spend a few years abroad post-graduation. COVID-related logistical issues left her bouncing from plan to plan.

"I thought I had time to get my life together and start thinking about what I want to do, but then everything stopped," she says.

She had a few offers to play basketball professionally, including a contract from Lithuania that she ultimately turned down because of passport renewal delays. COVID-19 had shut down government offices as well.

Finally, in early October she signed a contract with her country of choice: Germany. Stotler will play for BC Phantasies Marburg and start the process of getting her life back on track.

*"I thought I had time to
get my life together and
start thinking about what
I want to do, but then
everything stopped."*

NAVIGATING UNKNOWNs: POLINA POLIKAKHINA

Commencement may have been virtual, but Polina Polikakhina was determined to celebrate her graduation with her parents after they flew in from Alaska. Polikakhina says she made everyone watch the 90-minute ceremony and take it all in.

She wasn't alone in participating in the livestream that followed pre-recorded messages from faculty, alumni and PSU supporters including the Unipiper, Timber Joey and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici. The commencement videos (available at pdx.edu/commencement) have been viewed about 8,100 times since they were posted in June. Polikakhina says watching the livestream wasn't quite the same, but that she was happy to commemorate the end of an emotionally exhausting term.

Polikakhina studied civil engineering—inspired both by her upbringing in Russia and Alaska and by a devastating bicycle crash that left her in a coma for two weeks in October 2014 during her first term at PSU. “I was very lucky to get out of that experience the way I did and that’s another reason I’m so passionate about transportation and improving safety for vulnerable users,” Polikakhina says.

She’s secured a job with the transportation engineering firm Kittelson and Associates in Portland as a transportation analyst, but thanks to COVID-19 the rest of her life isn’t unfolding as planned.

Polikakhina’s post-graduation goal was always to spend a month or so in Russia visiting friends, family and her aging grandparents. Russia’s lockdown amid the pandemic changed that. She was worried the quick trip to see her grandparents—for what she fears could be the last time—could end with her being trapped in Russia if the country locks down once again. “There’s so many unknowns and there’s very little information on the internet, so it was hard to decide,” she says.

Ultimately, she made a complicated journey toward Russia that included flying into Belarus and taking a bus into Moscow, Russia. That trip home also included a 23-hour layover in Istanbul.

“I ended up crossing three borders: Turkish, Belorussian and Russian,” she says. “Even though everything went very smooth at the end, planning it was tricky.”

She’s planning to return to Portland at the end of

October and crossing her fingers the journey home goes just as smoothly. Thankfully, her future employer is providing flexibility for her start date in the case of any unforeseen circumstances.

As a self-described social butterfly, isolation has been particularly taxing for Polikakhina. She’s not alone in her desire to visit with friends face-to-face and misses spending time with her engineering peers, but that doesn’t diminish how she feels day to day.

Before classes wrapped up, Polikakhina stayed with her sister in Seattle for a few weeks. It ended up being just the kind of quality time she needed. When she returns from Russia, more family will await her. Polikakhina’s parents are planning to move to Portland from Alaska and she’ll live with them before getting settled on her own later this fall.

Through all the unknowns, Polikakhina says she’s feeling intimidated to start her job in civil engineering, given how the field has changed as a result of the pandemic. But she’s trying to remain reflective and hopeful.

“I think that all 2020 graduates will be facing different challenges than the people who graduated in the years past,” she says. “Traveling is certainly helping me to see how differently various places around the globe are handling the pandemic. I’m also seeing how the world is rapidly changing while adapting to the new reality.”

Adapting to unforeseen challenges isn’t new to Polikakhina—but she’s taking it one day at a time.



POLINA POLIKAKHINA



KSENIA POLIKAKHINA



KSENIA POLIKAKHINA

TOP: Polikakhina at her home workstation with kitten Busia.
CENTER: Polikakhina (left) with her father and mother.
BOTTOM: The isolation of quarantine proved difficult.



WITNESS TO PROTEST: JOSEPH BLAKE JR.

With the end of senior year in sight, Joseph Blake Jr. had almost achieved his goal of becoming a first-generation college graduate when the country went into lockdown because of COVID-19. “I was super scared,” says the social science major from Portland. He stayed home with his family, expecting his last term to pass quickly.

But less than two weeks before final exams, video footage of the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed in police custody in Minneapolis, whipped across the internet. Everything changed. “Although there was a pandemic going on, racism had been going on for me and my life and my family for hundreds of years,” he says. “I knew I had to be a part of the protests, whether or not I paid the price. I knew I needed to be there.”

When he left home, he brought his camera. Throughout college, Blake had a side business creating photography and music videos. He was used to seeing the world through a lens.

The first day, he looked down at the unrest in Pioneer Courthouse Square from the roof of a parking garage, stunned by what was happening. As he posted images to social media, he wrote about what the protests meant to him as a Black man from Portland. “People started communicating with me and saying ‘thank you for sharing your voice,’” he says. “I wanted to see where this would go.”

So week after week, Blake bore witness to what became the longest period of sustained protests in Portland’s history. He captured the passion on the streets as well as dramatic shots from above taken with a drone. His photographs show police standing in bright shards of broken glass at the entrance to Louis Vuitton; protesters surging across the Morrison Bridge; artists transforming plywood-covered downtown windows into murals; and the clouds of tear gas that soon billowed around the Multnomah County Justice Center nightly (see his Instagram @pdxwulf_).

As his posts circulated—one video has been viewed more than 38,000 times on Twitter—local media took notice. Blake’s photos have appeared in the Willamette Week, The Oregonian and Portland Monthly Magazine.



Blake says two in particular stand out for him. The first is an aerial shot of Pioneer Courthouse Square he took on June 2. The Portland Police Bureau estimated more than 10,000 people filled the plaza and surrounding streets. “That was before the storm—before police were tear-gassing daily. You could tell that everybody was there because they felt the sea change,” he says. “It was a moment when I realized the power of what people can do.”

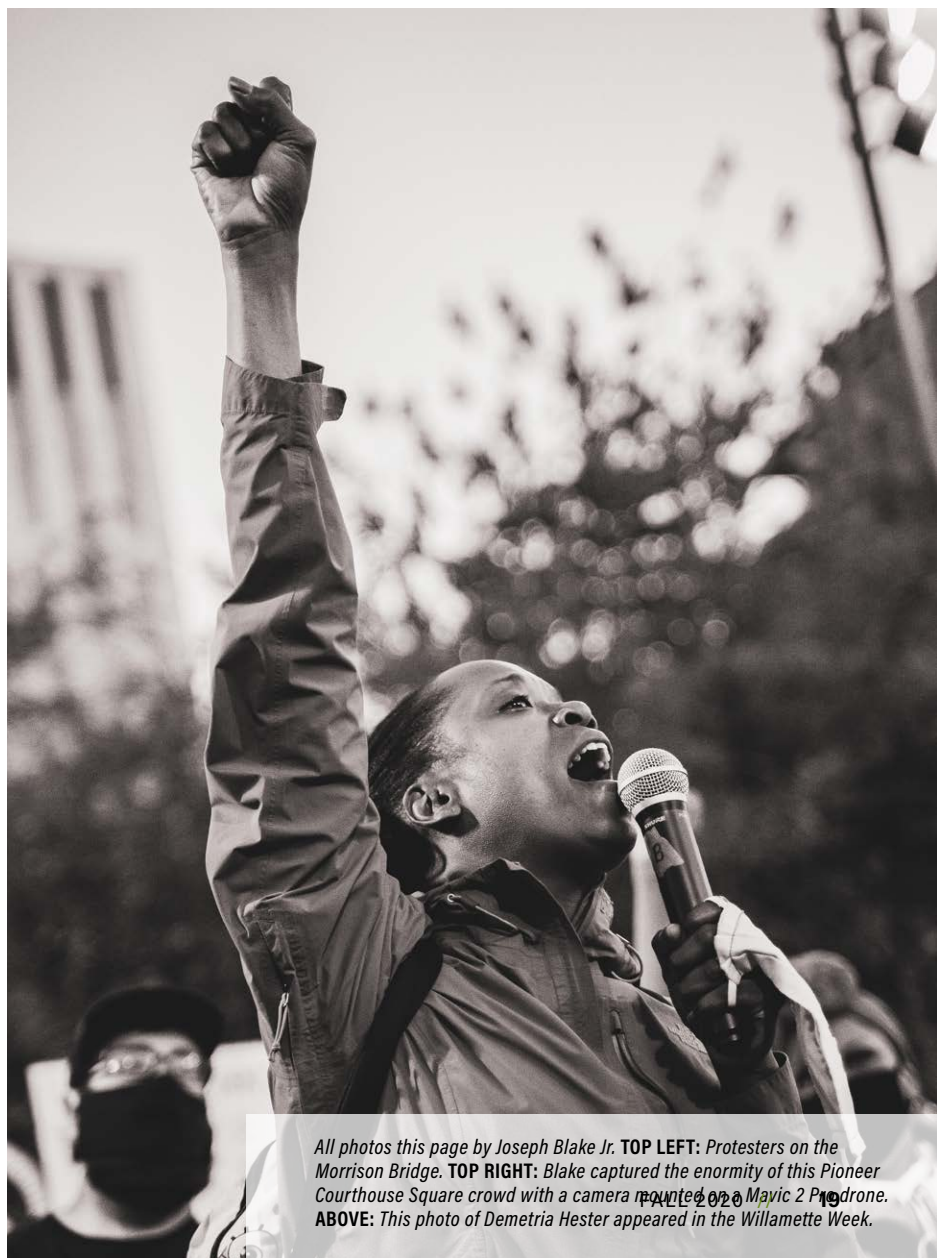
The second—later published in the *Willamette Week*—shows a woman speaking passionately to the crowd. He posted it with the caption, “I don’t know this woman by name, but I know her pain.” This was Demetria Hester, the leader of Mothers United for Black Lives Matter. Hester was assaulted by Jeremy Christian the night before he fatally stabbed two people and seriously injured former PSU student Micah Fletcher on a MAX train in 2017.

“Those are two moments I’ll remember for the rest of my life,” Blake says of taking the photographs.

About 60 days in, Blake and his girlfriend—both wearing respirators and goggles—found themselves blinded for almost five minutes by tear gas launched by federal agents. After a trip to volunteer medics and cascading physical effects the next day, they decided to take a break. The protests would go on, but not with them in the crowd every night.

“I still to this day think it’s not real at times,” Blake says of graduating from college. In lieu of commencement, he had a special meal with family. This summer, he started a two-year master’s program in PSU’s School of Education. He plans to teach third grade.

“This class is going to be forever known,” Blake says of the class of 2020. “We didn’t win a championship, we just got quarantined. But I think that when the quarantine happened it allowed people to fully invest themselves in what’s happening now. If the pandemic wasn’t here people would say ‘I’m working’ or ‘I’m busy.’” In the end, he says, “I think we’re going to be known as the class that actually stepped up.” *SCHOLLE McFARLAND*



All photos this page by Joseph Blake Jr. **TOP LEFT:** Protesters on the Morrison Bridge. **TOP RIGHT:** Blake captured the enormity of this Pioneer Courthouse Square crowd with a camera mounted on a Mavic 2 Pro drone. **ABOVE:** This photo of Demetria Hester appeared in the *Willamette Week*.



BRUCE BRADBURY

LEFT: Garrett took a rare trip outside his house to be photographed from a distance.
TOP RIGHT: Under strict quarantine to protect his mother, he carefully disinfects groceries after delivery—down to each egg.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Garrett marks the days he's been inside on this calendar.



DESIREE TOURNIER



CONNOR GARRETT

Connor Garrett hasn't left his house in seven months and counting. A calendar marked with a Sharpie pen tracks the number of days he and his mom have spent in isolation.

Daily routines like taking the MAX to campus and frequenting Tito's Burritos for the free coffee have been replaced with an intensive sanitation process—including wiping down all items and quarantining them for up to a week in the garage—to ensure his mother, considered high-risk, remains safe from COVID-19.

Despite the limitations that come with staying home day after day, Garrett is trying to use the time as a staycation of sorts. Catching up on TV and books—Indiana Jones is the current series of choice—reconnecting with friends over text and studying for his CPA exam top the list of activities. “I’m doing all the things I’ve been meaning to do for a while that have been on the back burner,” he says.

Garrett’s journey through higher education didn’t follow the typical path—the first time around he dropped out to dig ditches in California—but completing his accounting degree remotely was something he couldn’t anticipate. As a legally blind student, classes entirely on Zoom made it all the more challenging. In order to see, he had to place his face so close to the screen that his forehead covered the camera. A virtual commencement seemed not worth attending.

He and his family celebrated with a cake, but he’s hoping for an in-person ceremony to finalize his academic career. PSU has promised

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN: CONNOR GARRETT

“I just couldn’t live with myself if she got sick because I was being irresponsible.”

an in-person celebration in the future when it’s safe to do so—likely in concert with the 2021 commencement. No plans have been formalized yet.

In the meantime, Garrett is preparing to start a job as an information systems auditor with PwC (also known as PricewaterhouseCoopers) in Portland. He feels fortunate the company has assured new recruits that their jobs are secure, even though they will begin virtually. His first day was Sept. 10.

Eventually, he’s hoping to move out on his own and get an apartment downtown—something within walking distance of his job so he can gain a little more independence. That might not happen, however, until quarantine is over, which he realizes could take as long as it takes for a COVID-19 vaccine to be released.

“In my situation, leaving quarantine early is just not really a choice,” he says. “I have to be super careful about everything. We don’t even go outside. I just couldn’t live with myself if she got sick because I was being irresponsible.”

With more than two hundred days already behind him, Garrett feels like quarantine might have been what he needed to disconnect and refresh before starting his career.

“I’ve had the opportunity to become bored with quarantine,” he says.

But now he’s ready for the next step—even if he’s resigned to work from the same desk, in the same room, in the same house.

EMBRACING ROOTS: NORZOM LALA

As a Tibetan refugee who applied for asylum at 19, Norzom Lala is used to adversity. But when it finally came time to graduate with her master's in social work—thanks in part to the Dalai Lama Foundation Scholarship, awarded to only 10 people in the world each year—she thought the worst was over. She'd graduate and get a job in her field, ideally working with underrepresented communities. She'd also finally make a trip home to Tibet to see her family for the first time in five years.

COVID-19 upended that.

"It's really hard to process everything," Lala says.

Her trip home: canceled. Graduation: virtual with no one left in town to celebrate with. Job prospects in her field: none.

While everything fell apart around her, Lala's husband had knee surgery on the last day of school. Coronavirus protocol meant she couldn't go with him to the hospital, and quickly went from being a student to a caretaker.

Thankfully, one plan has given Lala some sense of normalcy. As part of her trip home to Tibet, she helped organize a PSU study

abroad program for students to learn about Tibetan culture. That class is now virtual, of course, but she spent the summer arranging for Tibetan monk speakers and translating for the class as needed. The class also provided a small income, enough to help supplement unemployment benefits she receives after losing her job with Cascadia Behavioral Health—for now. Lala recently got the good news that the class will resume next year and offer another opportunity for her to return home to Tibet, pending the pandemic's conclusion.

Despite the unknowns Lala faces with her career and family, she's found some positivity. "I think the pandemic has given me an opportunity to go back to my roots," she says.

Lala has embraced her Buddhist religion once again and began meditating to try living more in the moment instead of focusing on a future that's out of her control.

"That's helping a lot, it's the only way to calm me down," she says.

Unexpected time has also given her a chance to start writing a memoir about the Tibetan experience and culture. It's slow going, but she's optimistic she can finish it this year.

With a new kitten to keep her company, Lala is focused on finding a job in her field. Some classmates have found work in the school system, but the opportunities in community outreach—her specialty—are slim. She was able to save some unemployment money to make ends meet while she continues the search, which buys a little time. She and her husband are also debating the possibility of moving in with family in Colorado and renting their place in St. Johns for additional income, but Lala doesn't want to make any decisions yet.

For now, she'll keep living in the moment.



NASHCO

Lala's balcony has become a place of respite.





FROM PORTLAND STATE TO PUBLIC OFFICE

MEET ALUMNI ON THE BALLOT THIS FALL

by Cristina Rojas

In between classes and National Guard duty, Rudy Soto '11 ran for Portland City Council during his senior year at Portland State in 2010. Despite not raising any money, the former student body president finished fourth in the primary with 7% of the vote.

"It taught me there was a lot more that I needed to learn before I'd be ready to run for something at the next level," Soto said.

Ten years later, Soto is running for Idaho's First Congressional District—one of many alumni running for public office this November. (See the table "Alumni on the Ballot" for information about Oregon candidates.)

Political hopefuls are fueled by a desire to change what they see or don't see happening on a variety of issues, from healthcare to education and taxes. Alumni already in office want to continue the work they have begun.

Though their backgrounds, experiences and political outlooks differ, they all want a chance to "Let Knowledge Serve," and credit their time at PSU with helping them get to where they are today.

SOTO, A DEMOCRAT, was born and raised in Nampa, Idaho, but moved to Portland as a teen. A scholarship to attend PSU offered him a fresh start. The first in his family to graduate from college, he majored in liberal studies because it allowed him to patch together a degree that fit his interests.

"I was intent on making sure that whatever I was learning was helpful to me personally and professionally enriching," he said.

Soto's passion for advocacy and politics began at PSU—first as a student leader for United Indigenous Students in Higher Education, then in student government. He was

elected to the Student Fee Committee, then served as student body president in 2007-08.

The experience taught him how to manage a budget, represent a diverse student body and about the importance of communicating and engaging with people in a dynamic way.

"I brought into the fold a lot of voices and perspectives that typically had not been at the table," Soto said. "I think it broke down some doors and barriers that encouraged other people to get out of their comfort zone."

While a student, he enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard, going on to serve nine and a half years in Oregon and the District of Columbia. He also interned with the late Commissioner Nick Fish before preparing for his own run for office during senior year.

Since graduating in 2011, he has worked as a congressional staffer and held legislative and policy positions in nonprofits that focus on issues around child welfare, public health, economic development and tribal affairs.

"I feel well-grounded in substance and policy," said Soto, who has since returned to Nampa. "If enough people hear about me, my background, the issues I'm fighting for, we will definitely have a good shot at winning."

AFTER GRADUATING from Portland State with a master's in political science, Patrick Castles MA '75 went into business, not politics, but 45 years later, he's finally getting to put his degree to use.

"I guess I never lost that dream, but I had diverted to a more practical career," said Castles, a Republican from Lake Oswego who is running to represent District 38 in the Oregon House.

He worked in title insurance and mortgage servicing—at IBM for the last 13 years—before retiring. In recent years, he had become more politically active and was encouraged to run.

"I decided that I'd be as prepared as I could be," he said. "It was time to use that PSU degree and hopefully effect change in the legislature if I'm elected," he said.

Castles majored in political science at the University of Oregon and decided to pursue a master's degree at PSU because he wanted to advance his knowledge in the field and take a deeper dive into the Oregon Legislature. For his thesis research on Oregon redistricting in 1971, he visited Salem frequently and polled legislators on various issues.

He also took the initiative and approached state Rep. Roger Martin—a Republican who served six terms in the Oregon House of Representatives—for an internship, several years before PSU would have a formal internship program.

When he tracked down the representative in a committee, he recalled, "The members looked at me suspiciously, as if I was an alien from outer space, or possibly a reporter." Martin, however, made him a de facto member of his staff.

"That gave me more of an idea of what the legislature was about and made me feel more comfortable," Castles said.

Richard Clucas, political science professor and executive director of the Western Political Science Association, coordinates PSU's state legislative internship program. He said it's not uncommon for alumni to go through the program as students and run for office much later in life.

"It's a great training ground and really prepares them if they wish to pursue elected office at some point," he said. "They learn what that job entails, how to relate to constituents, and about voters and the bill-making process."

Some have run for office and won, like Oregon Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner '97—"Having those elected officials who

happen to be PSU graduates is helpful to our institution,” Clucas said. But even more have gone on to have successful political careers in key staff positions.

“The legislature touches upon every single issue imaginable,” Clucas said. “Students who come from the arts and sciences to everything in between—there’s a place for them in the legislature and a value to having them there.”

SARAH IANNARONE '05, who’s running for Portland mayor against incumbent Ted Wheeler, said she’s always taken a non-traditional path, and her journey to PSU was no different.

She grew up in upstate New York and pursued the culinary trade after high school, working as a chef in cities around the U.S. She moved to Portland in 1998, drawn to its arts and culture scene, access to the outdoors and free buses. She was a stay-at-home mom for several years, but once her daughter was old enough, she began taking classes at Portland Community College. An instructor suggested she transfer to PSU.

“Students who come from the arts and sciences to everything in between—there’s a place for them in the legislature and a value to having them there.”

“I picked Portland and PSU was at the heart of Portland,” she said. “I’m so happy that PSU was an option for me.”

She completed her undergraduate degree in arts and letters before jumping straight into the Urban Studies PhD program. She completed all but her dissertation.

“As I lived here longer and started a business and family, I saw the disparities and who got to benefit and who was left out of the livability equation,” she said. “I saw the role urban studies played in shaping the future. The graduate program is world-class, and the faculty were amazing and dialed into the city.”

She said she was grateful for her time in University Studies and that its focus on core competencies—understanding the diversity of human experience, communicating well with others and becoming adept with changing technologies—prepared her for life.

Iannarone credits her nearly eight-year tenure at PSU’s First Stop Portland for pushing her to run for office. At the tour organization, she helped connect leaders from around the world with local experts from government, business, university and nonprofit sectors to share best practices.

“I’m hoping that by becoming mayor—with the skills, networks, understanding and training that I have from Portland State—we can take back our city and look toward the future again,” she said.

JOHN LEY '77 ran as a Republican candidate for the 18th District State Senate seat in Washington until losing the primary in August. He attended PSU his senior year, landing his first job in the military through a connection he made in a night class.

Ley, who lives in Camas, Washington, earned an Air Force ROTC scholarship with a pilot training slot and chose to attend University of Portland. By his junior year, the Vietnam War had ended and he lost both. Still determined to serve, he decided to continue in ROTC and compete for an active duty commission and non-flying job. He transferred to the more affordable PSU as part of a crosstown agreement while continuing to take his ROTC classes at University of Portland.

Ley majored in speech communication—a degree that would serve him well when he became a public affairs officer. He kept busy with 20 to 24 credits each term to graduate on time and enjoyed taking a night class each quarter with students who juggled school and day jobs.

He became good friends with a Navy public affairs officer and after class, they would often hang out at the Cheerful Tortoise to grab a bite to eat and work on their homework.

Later he discovered this friend called the Air Force officer in charge of assignments to recommend him. “I believe that connection through PSU and night school made the difference in me being offered the job,” Ley said.

After working as a public affairs officer for three and a half years, he applied for flight school. He was turned down four times before finally getting a pilot slot. “Either I’m persistent or I do not understand the meaning of the word ‘no,’” he said.

After nearly 12 years in the Air Force, he worked as a Delta Airlines pilot for more than 30 years. Though he was a regular voter, it was the Columbia River Crossing project that motivated him to get involved in local politics. He did research, attended meetings and wrote letters to the editor.

“Become an expert on a couple of things,” Ley advises others interested in running for office. “If you haven’t studied an issue in-depth, it’s hard to propose solutions.”

THOUGH NOVEMBER will tell who will win or lose at the polls, many candidates noted that you don’t have to be a public servant to do public service. Those without political ambitions can make a big difference in their cities and states, too.

You become a part of public service, Iannarone said, “when you enter into the mindset of doing what you do not only to grow yourself and your family, but also to grow your community.”

CRISTINA ROJAS is the communications manager for PSU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



ALUMNI ON THE OREGON BALLOT by Jennifer Ladwig

CANDIDATE	PARTY	RUNNING FOR...	CAMPAIGN WEBSITE	REFLECTIONS
• Nolan Bylenga '20	D	House of Representatives, District 58	nolanbylenga.com	During his senior year, Bylenga "realized that no Democrats had much motive to run in my rural hometown of Pendleton, Oregon, so I decided that I would."
Patrick Castles MA '75	R	House of Representatives, District 38	patfororegon.com	On running for office: "Do it if you are committed. There is much behind the scenes that you don't see," Castles says. "Get involved with a campaign and ask questions."
Melissa (Wilcut) Cribbins '94	D	State Senate, District 5	melissacribbins.com	"My time at PSU taught me that you don't have to just be an urban or rural Oregonian," Cribbins says. "Oregon is one place, and we need to work together to make our state work for all of us."
• Chris Gorsek PhD '04	D	State Senate, District 25*	chrisgorsek.com	"I had been a Portland police officer before returning to school," Gorsek says. "Not only did PSU provide me the knowledge to go on and be an effective leader in local and state politics, it reinforced the importance of evidence-based information and critical thinking."
Sarah Iannarone '05	N	Mayor of Portland	sarah2020.com	"I think Oregonians and Portlanders who value our future need to think about PSU as the center of the future, not as an afterthought," says Iannarone.
• Teresa Alonso León MPA '13	D	House of Representatives, District 22 [†]	teresaforeoregon.com	Professors and mentors encouraged León to work for change. But, she says, "Higher education is still out of reach for so many Oregonians. One of the main reasons I ran for office was to work toward a future where the choice to continue an education is not limited by socio-economic status."
• Khanh Pham MUS '18	D	House of Representatives, District 46	khanhphamforeoregon.com	"When you run for office as part of a community or movement, you'll never be alone as a leader," says Pham. "This is a challenging time, but we need courageous leaders who are deeply rooted in community."
Kim Thatcher (former student)	R	Secretary of State [‡]	kimthatcher.com	Knowing a state representative "got me interested in government issues at a young age, but scoring a PSU political science class with Marko Haggard—someone I watched nightly on television—was also pretty influential on my interest in the political process."

D = Democrat R = Republican • N = Nonpartisan

*Current state representative [†]Incumbent [‡]Current state senator

Hands-on History

An unusual look into an infamous past through a 500-year-old codex

Bit by bit, students in a medieval history class began piecing together the story of a 15th-century codex and its journey to Portland State's library. They didn't get to touch the pigskin-leather binding or carefully turn its stiff, stained pages as they had hoped when they registered for the course, but thanks to digital scans, they were still able to take a deep dive from a distance, from deciphering scribbles in the margins to tracing watermarks back to specific paper mills.

"History is more than opening a book and reading," said John Ott, professor and chair of history who first reached out to the library's Special Collections about acquiring the work. "History also resides in objects like our codex. Examining its production and use permits students to see its material complexity and experience the thrill that comes with getting a sense for how an early book moved through the world."

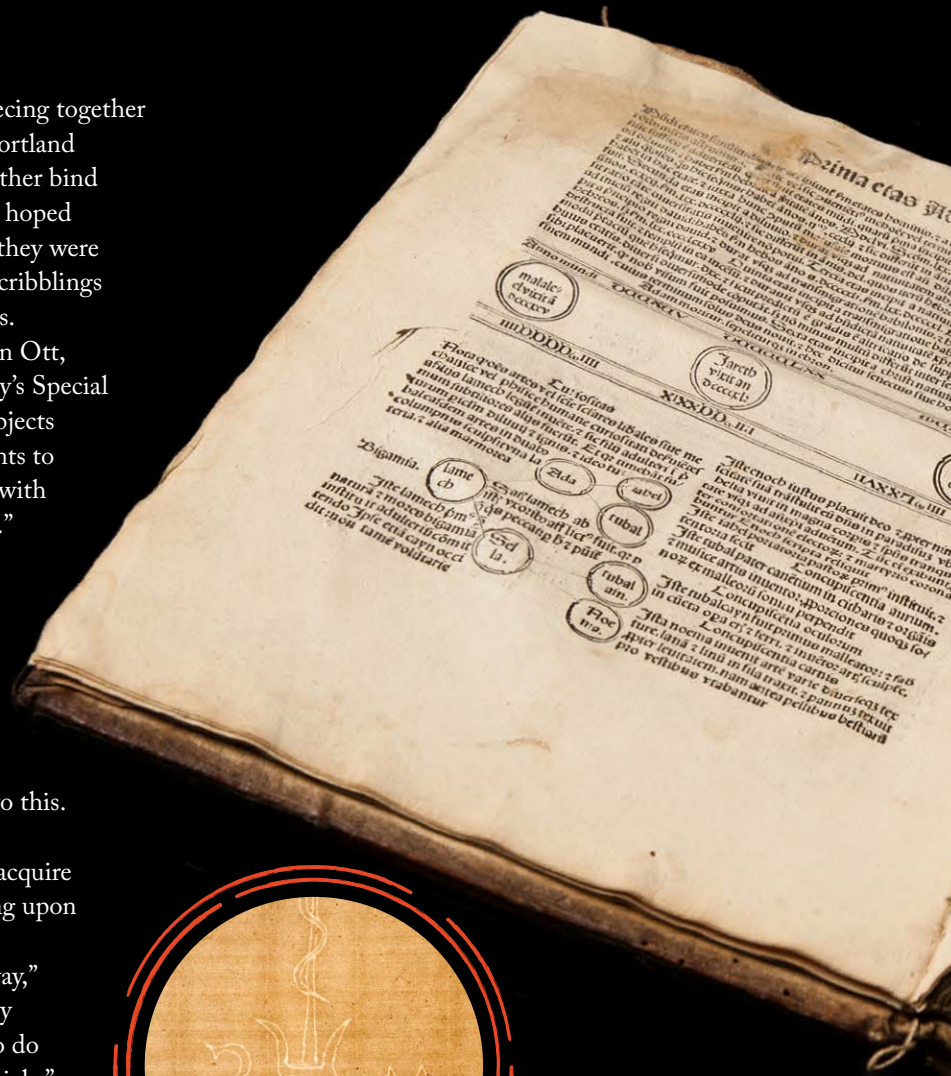
The codex binds together two separate texts printed in 1490: the *Fasciculus temporum* ("Little Bundles of Time") by Werner Rolewinck, a widely read history of the world from creation to Pope Sixtus IV (1471-1484), and a second edition of the *Malleus Maleficarum* ("The Hammer of Witches"), an infamous witch-hunter's manual used by inquisitors to identify witches, convict them of witchcraft and execute them for their alleged crimes. Ott wagered students would be drawn to this.

An endowment for Special Collections set up by a history alumnus, the late A. Gordon Hunter '59, provided the funds to acquire the book from a Parisian rare-book dealer two years ago, building upon the library's already significant medieval teaching collection.

"We're not a vault; we're not here to acquire it and lock it away," said Cristine Paschild, head of Special Collections and university archivist. "We want this to be a place where PSU students get to do deep, original and hands-on research and engage with the materials."

While a remote spring term prevented the students from having the sensory experience they would have liked, Special Collections technician Carolee Harrison walked students through the book's unique features with a video show-and-tell and scanned dozens of pages for them to examine online.

Students used these materials to pursue individual research projects. "As our term continued, we put more information together," said Christian Graham '20. "And we started to see the bigger picture of this book emerge." —CRISTINA ROJAS



Watermarks

Watermarks, visible only when light shines through a page, identify the maker of the paper, and sometimes where and when the paper was made. In the *Fasciculus temporum*, there are five distinct watermarks including a bull's head (see inset), some of which also appear in the *Malleus maleficarum*. Christian Graham '20, who researched the watermarks and paper trade within medieval Europe, traced one of them, a "P" watermark, to the press of Matthias Van der Goes in what is now Antwerp, Belgium.

Marginalia

Ott says notes in the margins made by at least three separate hands give us a sense for how the texts were read and used. These ranged from a paragraph symbol (§) to underlined words and squiggly markings, or *nota bene* marks, used to draw readers' attention to details (see inset). On one page in the *Fasciculus temporum*, there was also a handwritten notation: "Rex" (Latin for king) and the names of two kings of the Kingdom of Judah, Jehoshaphat and Josiah. Undergraduate student Jeremy Maly drew on his Latin skills to provide the class rough translations.



SO-MIN KANG



Codex printers

The *Fasciculus temporum* in PSU's codex was printed by Johann Prüss in Strassburg (now Strasbourg, France) and the *Malleus maleficarum* was printed by Peter Drach in Speyer. At some point shortly after printing, the two texts were bound together in pigskin with brass clasps (see inset). Master's student Zachary Hamilla found a missal listed as published in Strassburg by "Johann Prüss for Peter Drach" around 1490, the same year that Drach published the *Malleus*, and another master's student, Andy Swinford, found evidence of a second codex in which the same two texts were bound together. This suggests that they were printed and sold as a pair.

Woodblock illustrations

The *Fasciculus temporum* was illustrated with a number of woodcuts—some of cities, some of catastrophes like cities on fire, some of marvels such as birth abnormalities. One illustration shows physical deformities occurring in conjunction with a solar or lunar eclipse (see inset), which Harrison said is interesting, given that this edition was bound with a text dealing with witchcraft. "In this society, you have prevalent thinking that an eclipse could cause human deformity," she said. "This is the thinking that's going on at the same time that people are thinking that witches have the power to control whether or not crops thrive, whether the weather is fair, or whether a person lives or dies."



alumni life



STEPPING UP FOR PORTLAND'S BLACK COMMUNITY

SEVERAL DAYS AFTER George Floyd was killed, Cameron Whitten '16 sent out a Facebook post, eager to connect individuals with resources to Black Portlanders in need.

"We had just survived a long, painful week after a year that challenged us all to the core with multiple Black deaths at the hands of police while facing a pandemic," Whitten recalled. "A huge number of white Portlanders reached out to make sure I was OK, and I knew a lot of my Black friends did not have the same support."

Whitten—who uses all gender pronouns—originally expected to raise \$5,000 over two days to give Black friends financial assistance for rent, utility bills, food and medicine. The first day turned into an 11-hour Facebook marathon Whitten describes as a "community benefit stock brokerage exchange," with more than \$11,000 coming in. Deciding to move the effort to an online fundraising platform, Whitten co-founded the Black Resilience Fund (blackresiliencefund.com) with friend Salomé Chimuku.

"Every moment is an opportunity to take care of our most vulnerable Portlanders," Whitten said. "Even when we don't think we can solve all the issues, we can do something positive. So we got to work."

The fund far exceeded Whitten's highest aspirational goals. In less than two months, it raised more than \$1.2 million with about 13,000 individual donations. There were enough funds to provide assistance to 4,000 Black people across the Portland Metropolitan area. (By press time, the total had passed \$1.9 million.)

Fighting social injustice through nonprofit leadership, activism and political organizing has been a defining thread throughout the past

In less than two months, Cameron Whitten's Black Resilience Fund raised more than \$1.2 million in emergency aid with about 13,000 individual donations.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

decade of Whitten's life. They were involved in Occupy Portland, Know Your City and Portland's Resistance. Whitten currently serves on the board of directors for local nonprofits including REACH Community Development, Venture Portland and Pioneer Courthouse Square.

In 2018, Whitten founded the nonprofit organization Brown Hope to focus on trauma-informed activism and became the executive director at Q Center. They resigned from Q Center earlier this year to run for Metro Council, but COVID-19 impeded Whitten's grassroots political campaign. George Floyd's death took place just two weeks after the election, and the Black Resilience Fund was launched soon thereafter.

Whitten's passion for justice is fueled by their experiences as a teen. After arriving in Portland at the age of 18, Whitten faced homelessness and stayed in a youth shelter where they received support and encouragement. "Now my goal is to give back to the same community that was there when I needed it the most," Whitten said.

To gain skills for public advocacy, Whitten earned a bachelor's degree in economics at Portland State and is now

pursuing an MBA at Willamette University.

While Whitten's focus is systemic change, they've been impressed by the community's outpouring of support for individual Black lives. "What started out as a one-time emergency fund has grown exponentially," Whitten said. "We've received support from citizens, corporations, celebrities, community leaders and both Oregon U.S. senators."

As an incoming program of Brown Hope, the Black Resilience Fund is transitioning to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in order to position the fund for lasting impact. The fund "fits perfectly within Brown Hope's model of programs that foster healing from the impacts of racism and address inequities," Whitten said.

To help ease isolation, every applicant is interviewed by one Black Portlander and given the assistance funding in person by another. The idea is to create new connections and support systems. "Our goal is to build community, and I'm so proud of the way Portland has shown up for Black lives," Whitten said. "Thanks to hundreds of new relationships, I know we have the energy to advance this work for the long term." —*KJ FIELDS*

Sean Bell '91, senior development manager with RES-Americas and principal of Navitas Development, finished work on the first commercial-scale wind project in Western Washington, the 38-turbine Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project in Lewis County.

Brett Bigham MS '02 lent his experience of discrimination to an amicus curiae brief in support of LGBT employees whose cases reached the Supreme Court. The *Bostock vs. Clayton County, Georgia*, ruling made it illegal to fire an employee for being homosexual or transgender.

Diana Bradrick MBA '89 was elected Whatcom County auditor in Bellingham, Washington, starting January 2020. Before that, Bradrick was Whatcom County's chief deputy auditor for more than seven years.

Ezekiel Ette MSW '99 PhD '05 has been promoted to full professor at Delaware State University. He has also recently published his 12th book titled "Acculturative Stress and Change in Nigerian Society" with Lexington Books.

Gary Funk MS '75, a composer and retired University of Montana music professor, used his COVID-19 quarantine time to publish five songbooks, two books on singing technique, a book of letters, a work of fiction, and a musical script and score. Learn more at drgaryfunk.com

David Gerstenfeld '91 became interim director of Oregon's Employment Department in June. He is in charge of the state's response to a record number of unemployment benefit claims.

Neil Hummasti '73 was a Wishing Shelf Book Award finalist for "Forty Ways to Square a Circle" and a Wishing Shelf Red Ribbon Award winner for "I See London, I See France...", both published posthumously by his brother **Arnold Hummasti '69 MLS '83**.

Jesse Keyes '03, principal and project manager for Universal Applicators, an environmental consulting company, also fronts the band Size 85 High Tops, whose second album, "Rev It Up," was released by In Music We Trust Records in March.

Michael Maben '80 is the 2020 recipient of the Renee D. Chapman Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions in Technical Services Law Librarianship. Maben has been affiliated with Indiana University's Jerome Hall Law Library for 32 years.

ALUMNI HELP BUSINESSES HIT BY COVID-19

FOR A GROUP of 2019 MBA alumni, the COVID-19 crisis transformed a casual reunion into a forward-thinking pro bono enterprise called the Portland Business Support Project (pdxbiz.org).

"Our second meeting had to take place over video due to the coronavirus and we were all concerned with helping Portland's economy stay afloat," recalled project volunteer Jennifer Greenberg MBA '19. "We wanted to do something positive."

With the help of more than 20 alumni volunteers—professionals in finance, human relations, lending, operations and management—the Portland Business Support Project offers free consulting to small businesses navigating this time of uncertainty. More than 60 clients have

signed up so far, a diverse group including a law firm, dog trainer, tap house, restaurants, hair salons and a construction-industry firm.

"We provide business coaching and help strategize how to create revenue by bringing existing assets to the forefront," said volunteer Lauren Greer MBA '19. "These changes might mark a temporary shift or become permanent parts of their business model."

A big factor in businesses' current and long-term success is the transition to digital platforms so they can continue to engage their clients during lockdowns. As volunteer Jason Bruderlin MBA '19 put it: "Ultimately, we want to help businesses find ways to pivot and survive the crisis." —*KJ FIELDS*

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

James McGee '98 is the new principal of Grant High School in Northeast Portland. Previously, McGee served as a vice principal and counselor at Lincoln High School.

Emielle Nischik MBA '09 was named executive director of College Possible Oregon, a national nonprofit dedicated to making college accessible to historically underserved communities.

Danielle LaMear Rosendahl '87 was recently named the first female chair of the board for the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. She has owned four restaurants in the Portland area and currently owns the Pit Stop Sports Bar & BBQ Grill in Beaverton with her husband, Steve.

Lea Sevey '03, the executive director of Oasis Shelter Home in Gold Beach, Oregon, is the 2019 recipient of The Midori Hamilton Award, presented to individuals who have provided exemplary service in the movement to end domestic and sexual violence.

Sharona Shnayder '20 and **Wanda McNealy '20** began Tuesdays For Trash (on Instagram @tuesdaysfortrash) to encourage people to take care of the planet.

Morri Stewart MA '97, has published her first book, "Faltofar," a young adult fantasy novel. Find it on Amazon.com and in independent bookstores.

Todd Stoddard '11 MEd '13, a physical education and health teacher at Lakeridge Middle School in Lake Oswego, Oregon, was named 2020 National Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

Tarah Wheeler MS '04, cybersecurity policy fellow at New America, was awarded the Fulbright Cyber Security Scholar Award by the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

LOSSES

Thomas T. Allsen '62; **Woodrow Mercer Blettell '70**; **Paul J Willoughby '65**; **Tom Bielavitz**, library dean; **Patricia "Pat" Byrd**, librarian; and **Brenda Eichelberger**, senior instructor of management.

Read tributes at pdx.edu/magazine/remembrances

Have news you'd like to share?

Email alum@pdx.edu or submit your own alumni news online at pdx.edu/alumni/contact.

5 WAYS TO JUMPSTART YOUR JOB SEARCH

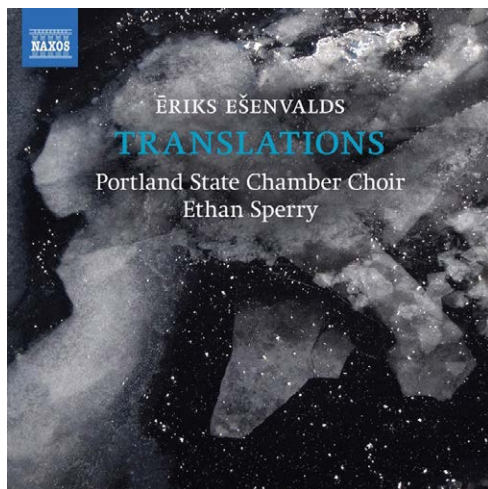
THE COVID-19 pandemic plunged the nation into uncertain and stressful times, with unemployment soaring to levels not seen since the 1930s. But Portland State University alumni don't have to go it alone. The Career Center continues to serve alumni after graduation in good times and in bad. Here are five ways to get help:

- 1. ACCESS PERSONAL ADVICE:** " Oftentimes, the best place to start is with a conversation," says Greg Flores, Associate Director of Career Services. Make a one-hour appointment with an adviser through the Career Services website at pdx.edu/careers or by phone at 503-725-4613. If you're out of the area or affected by coronavirus restrictions, meet with an adviser via Google Hangouts or Zoom. During this discussion, alumni explore "strategies, tools, options—all the pieces of their search—and see what makes the most sense for a place to start." Discussions vary, depending on each alum's needs, whether they are in immediate danger of running out of money or they have an extended timeline to search for a strategic career move, Flores said.
- 2. TRY A WORKSHOP:** The Career Center offers workshops on topics including interviewing skills, resume and cover letter writing, networking skills and applying to graduate school. This fall, drop-in classes are offered virtually via Zoom, which means alumni can access them no matter where they live. Once campus reopens completely, the Career Center expects to continue with some remote workshop offerings to help more students access services. See a list of offerings at pdx.edu/careers/events.
- 3. ATTEND A CAREER FAIR:** Recent graduates and career changers in particular can benefit from meeting potential employers at career fairs. This fall's virtual career fair will take place Oct. 28. The Career Center is also exploring networking opportunities for alumni looking for positions that require more experience.
- 4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS:** The Career Center's website includes a huge library of resources, Flores said. Alumni can take advantage of the many job boards listed on the Career Center's website, engage in the PSU Alumni LinkedIn community, or use the portal Handshake to connect with more than 250,000 employers and browse job and internship listings.
- 5. BE READY FOR OPPORTUNITIES:** Flores said many alumni have asked if they should bother applying for jobs at all, considering how many businesses have closed. His advice is to focus energy on "networking, on skill building (by) brushing up on technical skills, or as you read job descriptions, looking for places where you could improve to become more competitive." That way, "when that opportunity comes, you're ready for it," he said.

With the current turmoil, people have a lot of outside stressors that can make searching for a job difficult, Flores said. And that's where the career center comes in, providing counseling and assisting alumni in their search for that next stage in their professional life. "We're still here to serve," Flores said, "and we're happy to help." —JENNIFER LADWIG



bookshelf



TRANSLATIONS

Portland State Chamber Choir

NAXOS RECORDS

Portland State Chamber Choir's newest album, "Translations," was named a May 2020 Editor's Choice by Gramophone magazine in its roundup of the best new classical albums. The magazine's review of the seven-work recording praises the "immaculate" artistry and "luscious choral textures" of the ensemble, led by Ethan Sperry. "For those seeking comfort and an escape from the manifold stresses and uncertainties currently facing mankind," writes critic Malcolm Riley, "there will be much in this new collection of choral music by Ēriks Ešenvalds that will warm the soul and give solace." The 42-student Chamber Choir's 2017 release, "The Doors of Heaven," was the first recording by a university ensemble to ever hit No. 1 on the Billboard Classical Chart.

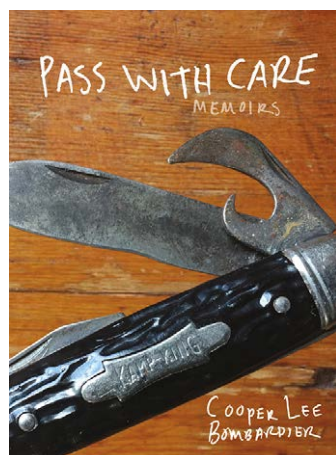


THAT PLACE WHERE YOU OPENED YOUR HANDS

Susan Moore MA '04

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS PRESS

Recipient of the 2019 Juniper Prize for Poetry, this book explores identity, bringing the ordinary rhythms of life and motherhood into coexistence with wilder truths. As Moore writes, "If I can't be singular / in purpose, let me be quietly adrift." Moore earned a master's in writing from PSU, and her work has appeared in such outlets as Poetry Northwest, Willow Springs, New York Quarterly and Quick Fiction.



PASS WITH CARE

Cooper Lee Bombardier MA '12
MFA '14

DOTTIR PRESS

Bombardier's first book, a collection of personal essays, poetry and interview transcripts, offers a bridge between queer and trans generations, revealing a unique reckoning with what it means to become a man today. Named one of "10 Transgender Artists Who Are Changing the Landscape of Contemporary Art" by The Huffington Post, Bombardier earned a master's in book publishing from PSU in 2012 and a master's in fine arts in 2014.



SILVERWORLD

Diana Abu-Jaber, English faculty

CROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

This middle-grade fantasy novel follows the story of a Lebanese-American girl who finds the courage to save her grandmother from a mysterious sickness. Searching for answers, she casts a spell from her grandmother's charm book and falls through a mirror into another world. Abu-Jaber teaches English at PSU and is the author of "Crescent," which was awarded the 2004 PEN Center USA Award for Literary Fiction and the American Book Award. This is her first novel for children.



ALICIA VIANI

Alicia Viani MSW '09

INDEPENDENT RELEASE

Alicia Viani's self-titled debut is a collection of aching ballads and insightful storytelling that draws on her experiences as a clinical social worker. The album hit No. 4 on The Folk Chart, with two titles in particular resonating as songs of the time: "Good Man," about a white man who witnesses a racist incident and does nothing, and "Lonesome For You," about a longing for closeness. A folk singer based in Bend, Oregon, Viani earned her master's in social work at PSU in 2009.

looking back

A PRESIDENT IN THE PARK BLOCKS

IN THE 1990s, President Bill Clinton made two appearances at Portland State University—once in 1995 for the Pacific Rim Economic Conference and again in 1998 to speak at PSU’s commencement ceremony.

“It doesn’t matter what your partisanship is,” said Richard Clucas, political science faculty, “to have the president of the United States speak at the commencement address was pretty exciting for everyone who was there.”

In his speech, Clinton talked about the new wave of immigration reshaping the country. The challenge facing new graduates—and reflected in the student body at Portland State—he said, was how to “bind ourselves together as one America” as the country grew more racially and ethnically diverse. The changes, he said, “can either strengthen and unite us, or weaken and divide us. We decide.” (Watch the speech at pdx.edu/magazine).

While it’s unclear exactly how President Clinton became the only sitting president to speak at PSU so far, political science instructor Jack Miller suspects in large part it was because of Clinton’s efforts to secure the support of young voters.

“One of the things that Bill Clinton did differently, and he still kind of remains

relatively unique in this,” said Miller, is that “he consciously attempted to court young voters.” During his campaign for the 1992 election, Clinton appeared on MTV and famously played the saxophone (in sunglasses) on late night television’s Arsenio Hall Show. That election showed record-high turnout, including, at that point, the largest number of 18- to 24-year-old voters since 18-year-olds won the right to vote in 1972.

“Youthful outrage in politics has been a constant.”

Though older Americans are more likely to vote, Miller said, younger people are the most likely to devote time and energy to volunteering for a campaign. Young people are also the most easily outraged, making them likely to become actively involved in political demonstrations, discussions and movements.

It was this enthusiasm that Miller thinks Clinton was trying to reach while at PSU. Whether looking at Bill Clinton’s presidency, Donald Trump’s or any other presidential candidate, he said, there is one obvious connection: passion.

“Youthful outrage in politics has been a constant,” Miller said. “I have been around

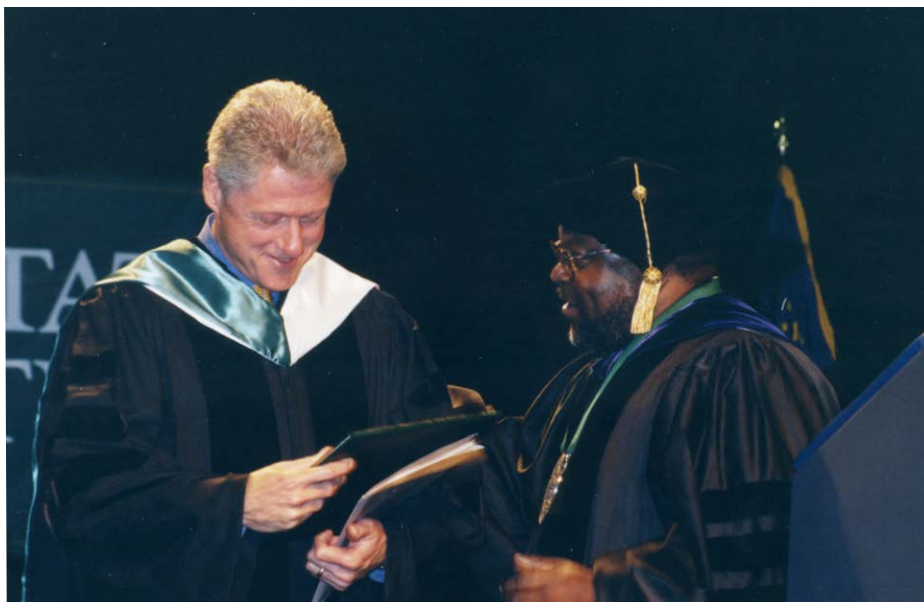
18- to 22-year-olds my entire life, I have seen that particular age group move through all of the generations. And every president generates youthful outrage.”

How did that apply in the case of PSU, with its older-than-average student body? As Clinton quipped during his commencement speech: “More than half the students here are over 25. More than a few of you are considerably over 25. Still, you all look quite young to me!”

“PSU’s study body offered a glimpse of the future in more ways than one,” Miller said. “Clinton’s speech shows a recognition that people older than the ‘traditional’ college-age would be pursuing a college degree at higher rates because it was becoming more and more important for employment.”

As America approaches the 2020 election, Miller’s most certain prediction is that Election Day will turn into Election Week. Otherwise, he said everything else is up in the air. But the visceral, emotional outrage brought to light on both sides of the political spectrum shows just how important it is to bring back political education for and engagement with American youth.

“Some political scientists believe one of the main ways we will get this country back on track,” Clucas said, “is to have elected officials back in schools so that students can understand who these individuals are and can learn more about what politics is all about.” —JENNIFER LADWIG



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Thank you to all those who stepped up as part of this year's virtual Simon Benson Awards Celebration. Since 1999, the event has raised more than \$14 million to support Portland State University students, programs and faculty.

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